4/11/88 S6845-1

ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA ALTOONA MSA BEAVER COUNTY PMSA ERIE MSA HARRISBURG-LEBANON-CARLISLE MSA JOHNSTOWN MSA LANCASTER MSA PHILADELPHIA PMSA PITTSBURGH PMSA READING MSA SCRANTON WILKES-BARRE MSA SHARON MSA STATE COLLEGE MSA WILLIAMSPORT MSA YORK MSA HUNTINGDON LMA INDIANA

YORK MSA
WILLIAMSPORT MSA
STATE COLLEGE MSA
SHARON MSA
SCRANTON -
WILKES-BARRE MSA
READING MSA
PITTSBURGH PMSA
PHILADELPHIA PMSA
LANCASTER MSA
JOHNSTOWN MSA
HARRISBURG
LEBANON CARLISLE
MSA ERIE MSA
BEAVER COUNTY
PMSA ALTOONA MSA
ALLENTOWN
BETHLEHEM MSA
BEDFORD LMA
BRADFORD LMA
BUTLER LMA
CHAMBERSBURG

PENNSYLVANIA'S

LABOR FORCE

.... A Monthly Statistical Analysis

Highlights

- Labor Force data contained in this release have undergone annual revision and are not strictly comparable to figures published prior to March 1988.
- Resident unemployment in Pennsylvania declined by 30,000 to 300,000 in February.
- At 5.2 percent (seasonally adjusted) in February, the Commonwealth's jobless rate has remained below that of the nation for twenty-one consecutive months.
- Employment up over-the-year by 233,000. Jobs, at 4,903,300, are at highest January level ever.
- Highest joblessness among Pennsylvania's 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas...Beaver County at 9.7 percent in January. Lowest...Lancaster at 3.7 percent.
- January manufacturing earnings at $426.78 ... weekly hours at 40.9 ... hourly rate of $10.16.

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FEBRUARY 1988 DATA ISSUED: MARCH 1988

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Department of Labor and Industry Office of Employment Security

Research and Statistics Division

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Pennsylvania's Labor Force ....A Monthly Statistical Analysis
is published monthly by the Office of Employment Security, Research and Statistics Division. Focusing on economic information and analysis, the publication is intended for a variety of users from business leaders, government administrators and planners to the general public.

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ANNOUNCING

• ...NEW PUBLICATION

As you probably have noticed, our publication is taking on a new look this month. Actually, our entire report has been revised and, we hope, improved. Sporting a new title, Pennsylvania's Labor Force...A Monthly Statistical Analysis (formerly called Pennsylvania Employment and Earnings), our streamlined booklet is designed to offer pertinent and timely labor market information in a pleasing format while elimnating unnecessary discussion. We hope you'll find the publication informative and even somewhat entertaining. Look for it each month.

• ...REVISED FIGURES

Each year with the release of January's Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revises previously reported labor force data for the eleven largest states including Pennsylvania. The revisions are based upon updated population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census and new seasonal adjustment factors recomputed by BLS with the addition of the most recent year's labor force data. These revisions affect monthly resident labor force estimates back to 1986.

Other important data items reported monthly in our releases, estimates of nonagricultural wage and salary jobs in Pennsylvania, also undergo annual revisions during this time of year. These estimates are obtained from a monthly survey of business establishments conducted by the state Office of Employment Security for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Beginning with this release, the data have been revised to first quarter 1987 benchmarks and are, therefore, not strictly comparable to figures published prior to March 1988.

CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN STATEWIDE, RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT AT NEAR-RECORD LEVEL

Pennsylvania's economy, as reflected in labor market statistics, moved briskly forward in February. After adjustment for seasonal influences, the volume and rate of unemployment declined significantly while employment remained stable at a near record level.

Specifically, Current Population Survey (CPS) labor force data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, reveal a seasonally adjusted total of 300,000 Pennsylvania residents out of work, 30,000 less than January's total. With the exception of December 1986 when 288,000 were unemployed, it was the lowest number of jobless since October 1974.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

(Seasonally Adjusted)

TABLE 1
TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA
(All Persons in Thousands)

RESIDENT DATA	FEB. 1988	JAN. 1988	FEB. 1987	NET CHANGE FROM JAN. 1988	NET CHANGE FROM FEB. 1987
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,786	5,827	5,564	-41.0	222.0
Employment	5,486	5,497	5,253	-11.0	233.0
Unemployment	300	330	311	-30.0	-11.0
Rate of Unemployment(%)	5.2	5.7	5.6	-0.5	-0.4
UNADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,653	5,728	5,431	-75.0	222.0
Employment	5,319	5,372	5,082	-53.0	237.0
Unemployment	334	356	349	-22.0	-15.0
Rate of Unemployment(%)	5.9	6.2	6.4	-0.3	-0.5

Strongly influenced by this month's jobless downturn, the adjusted rate of unemployment moved to 5.2 percent, an over-the-month decline of 0.5 percentage point. Pennsylvania has now registered thirteen consecutive months with unemployment, seasonally adjusted, below six percent and twenty-one straight months in which the Commonwealth's rate has remained below the nation.

Throughout much of 1987, Pennsylvania's volume of employment moved steadily ahead, setting several records along the way. During January 1988, employment continued to soar upward reaching yet another high point of 5,497,000 after adjustment for seasonal influences. This month, despite a slight decline to 5,486,000, employment throughout the Commonwealth held the second highest level on record and is currently 233,000 above the figure attained during February 1987.

UNEMPLOYMENT ..... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

Unemployment by county for the month of January 1988 yields some striking comparisons. Southeastern Pennsylvania counties of Chester, Montgomery and Delaware, with unemployment rates below 4.0 percent, contrasted vividly with Fayette and Greene Counties in the southwestern corner of the Commonwealth whose jobless rates in January were an identical 12.6 percent. Volumewise, the most populous counties of Philadelphia and Allegheny, with populations well over one million, understandably reflected the most joblessness, as each displayed unemployment in the 40,000 range and sported identical rates of 6.0 percent. Twenty-one counties had unemployment rates lower than Pennsylvania's 6.2 percent (unadjusted) for January, while forty-six counties were higher than the state rate.

JANUARY RATE

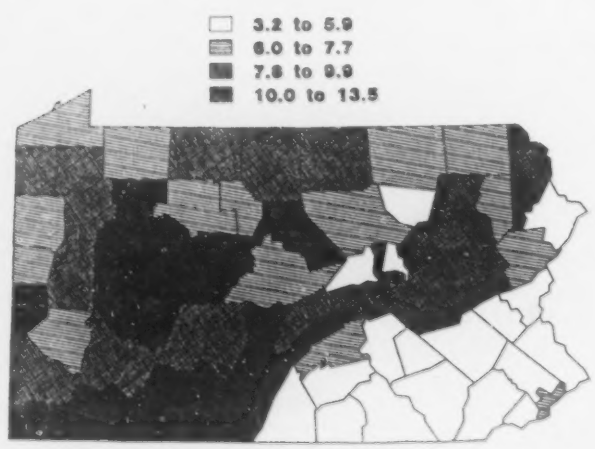

TABLE 2
PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES RANKED BY RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
(not seasonally adjusted)

****

JANUARY - 1988

COUNTY	RANK	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	VOLUME
Chester	1	3.3	6,100
Cumberland	2	3.4	3,800
Montgomery	3	3.6	14,000
Delaware	4	3.7	11,100
Bucks	5	4.0	11,600
Lancaster	6	4.4	9,300
Franklin	7	4.9	2,800
Berks	8	5.1	8,900
Pike	8	5.1	500
Union	8	5.1	800
Lebanon	11	5.3	3,300
Adams	11	5.3	2,000
Dauphin	11	5.3	6,900
York	14	5.4	9,800
Northampton	15	5.5	6,100
Lehigh	15	5.5	8,000
Sullivan	17	5.6	200
Montour	18	5.8	500
Centre	19	6.0	3,600
Philadelphia	19	6.0	44,600
Allegheny	19	6.0	38,300
Monroe	22	6.3	2,700
Cameron	22	6.3	200
Mercer	24	6.4	3,100
Lackawanna	25	6.6	7,100
Elk	26	7.0	1,100
Lawrence	27	7.1	3,100
Perry	27	7.1	1,400
Warren	29	7.2	1,500
Lycoming	29	7.2	4,400
Susquehanna	31	7.3	1,300
Erie	32	7.5	9,600
Bradford	33	7.6	2,300
McKean	34	7.8	1,800
Butler	34	7.8	5,400
Mifflin	34	7.8	1,800
Potter	34	7.8	800
Tioga	38	7.9	1,400
Wayne	39	8.0	1,500
Luzerne	40	8.1	12,900
Venango	40	8.1	2,100
Snyder	40	8.1	1,500
Schuylkill	43	8.2	5,900
Wyoming	44	8.4	1,100
Crawford	45	8.5	3,200
Columbia	46	8.6	2,700
Blair	46	8.6	5,100
Northumberland	48	8.9	4,200
Cambria	49	9.0	5,700
Washington	49	9.0	8,200
Westmoreland	51	9.8	16,800
Carbon	52	9.9	2,500
Jefferson	53	10.1	2,100
Fulton	54	10.4	800
Beaver	54	10.4	6,500
Bedford	56	10.6	2,200
Clearfield	57	11.0	3,900
Somerset	58	11.2	3,600
Armstrong	58	11.2	3,200
Indiana	60	11.3	4,000
Clinton	61	11.5	1,800
Huntingdon	62	11.8	2,100
Clarion	63	12.1	2,000
Juniata	63	12.1	1,200
Fayette	65	12.6	7,500
Greene	65	12.6	1,700
Forest	67	13.2	300

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR MARKET AREAS

TABLE 3

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME AND RATE BY MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA IN PENNSYLVANIA
(Seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

	JANUARY 1988		DECEMBER 1987		JANUARY 1987	
	UNEMP. NUMBER	UNEMP. RATE	UNEMP. NUMBER	UNEMP. RATE	UNEMP. NUMBER	UNEMP. RATE
UNITED STATES	7,046.	5.8	6,978.	5.8	7,964.	6.7
PENNSYLVANIA	330.	5.7	323.	5.6	334.	6.0
LABOR MARKET AREA		P/				
ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA	17.6	5.4	17.6	5.4	17.2	5.5
ALTOONA MSA	4.4	7.2	4.4	7.2	4.2	7.3
BEAVER COUNTY MSA	6.1	9.7	6.1	9.7	6.5	10.2
ERIE MSA	8.9	6.8	8.9	6.8	9.7	7.7
HARRISBURG-LEB.-CARLISLE MSA	12.6	3.9	12.6	3.9	12.2	4.0
JOHNSTOWN MSA	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.5
LANCASTER MSA	8.1	3.7	8.1	3.7	6.6	3.2
PHILADELPHIA PMSA	110.3	4.5	110.3	4.5	107.3	46
PITTSBURGH PMSA	64.8	6.7	64.8	6.7	67.0	7.1
READING MSA	8.5	4.8	8.5	4.8	9.0	5.4
SCRANTON--WILKES-BARRE MSA	23.9	6.7	23.9	6.7	25.5	7.4
SHARON MSA	2.6	5.3	2.6	5.3	3.8	7.9
STATE COLLEGE MSA	3.4	5.5	3.4	5.5	3.2	5.5
WILLIAMSPORT MSA	3.8	6.1	3.8	6.1	3.3	6.0
YORK MSA	9.5	4.4	9.5	4.4	8.7	4.3

P/= Labor Market Area data are preliminary.

COMMONWEALTH JOBLESSNESS VARIES WIDELY BY AREA

Most recent (January) unemployment figures available for Pennsylvania's fifteen Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) are depicted above and reveal a wide range of joblessness from east to west. Areas in southeastern Pennsylvania continue to reap the benefits of a diverse labor market with resultant unemployment rates below the state average. As an example, Lancaster's 3.7 percent rate is lowest among all MSAs throughout the Commonwealth while the Philadelphia PMSA and the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle MSA, with rates of 4.5 percent and 3.9 percent, respectively, further attest to this region's strength.

Labor Markets in western and westcentral Pennsylvania, plagued by massive steel and mining layoffs, have begun a necessary and, at times, quite painful, restructuring toward a more recession-proof economy. In the Beaver County PMSA, once a stronghold of the state's steel economy, joblessness now stands at 9.7 percent of their labor force, highest in the state. Further east, the Johnstown and Altoona MSAs, at 8.2 and 7.2 percent unemployment, respectively, have weathered much of the problems of job displacement; but, obstacles remain to be overcome. The process will be slow, but well worthwhile in the final analysis.

TABLE 4
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	FEB 1988 AP/	JAN 1988 P/	DEC 1987	JAN 1987	NET CHANGE-TO JAN 1988 FROM DEC 1987	NET CHANGE-TO JAN 1988 FROM JAN 1986
NONAG WAGE AND SALARY	4,911.7	4,903.3	5,018.2	4,768.9	-114.9	134.4
---MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	1,045.6	1,047.4	1,051.7	1,024.4	-4.3	23.0
DURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	595.5	597.4	599.5	577.9	-2.1	19.5
LUMBERAND WOOD PRODUCT		29.8	30.6	27.2	-0.8	2.6
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES		22.3	22.2	21.2	0.1	1.1
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS		46.5	47.9	45.4	-1.4	1.1
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES		90.3	90.3	81.5	0.0	8.8
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS		92.8	93.3	90.4	-0.5	2.4
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL		106.4	106.0	101.4	0.4	5.0
ELECTRIC & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		92.6	92.6	95.4	0.0	-2.8
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT		61.9	62.0	60.6	-0.1	1.3
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PRODUCTS		34.3	34.2	34.7	0.1	-0.4
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES		20.5	20.4	20.1	0.1	0.4
NONDURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	450.1	450.0	452.2	446.5	-2.2	3.5
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS		91.4	92.9	90.3	-1.5	1.1
TOBACCO MANUFACTURES		1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS		30.9	31.2	29.7	-0.3	1.2
APPAREL AND OTHER TEXTILE PRODS.		82.5	82.4	89.1	0.1	-6.6
PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		40.8	40.7	40.7	0.1	0.1
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING		81.8	82.0	79.4	-0.2	2.4
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		60.0	60.2	57.7	-0.2	2.3
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS		9.9	10.1	10.1	-0.2	-0.2
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS		41.2	41.1	38.8	0.1	2.4
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS		10.2	10.3	9.4	-0.1	0.8
---NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	3,863.4	3,854.1	3,964.8	3,736.0	-110.7	118.1
MINING	28.7	29.6	30.4	31.2	-0.8	-1.6
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	197.6	200.8	223.4	191.3	-22.6	9.5
TRANSPORTATION	139.6	139.8	144.5	137.3	-4.7	2.5
PUBLIC UTILITIES	104.5	104.7	105.2	103.1	-0.5	1.6
COMMUNICATIONS		49.6	49.8	49.1	-0.2	0.5
ELECTRIC, GAS AND SANITARY		55.1	55.4	54	-0.3	1.1
WHOLESALE TRADE	266.8	264.9	265.4	258.2	-0.5	6.7
RETAIL TRADE	848.3	859.8	903.4	832.1	-43.6	27.7
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES		129.5	143.0	125.6	-13.5	3.9
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE		291.4	292.0	285.6	-0.6	5.8
BANKING		87.8	87.9	88.9	-0.1	-1.1
INSURANCE CARRIERS		86.9	86.6	83.2	0.3	3.7
SERVICES AND MISCELLANEOUS	1,291.8	1,279.1	1,299.6	1,225.4	-20.5	53.7
BUSINESS SERVICES		223.5	225.2	206.5	-1.7	17.0
HEALTH SERVICES		424.2	423.1	409.1	1.1	15.1
--HOSPITALS		233.8	233.6	226.8	0.2	7.0
LEGAL SERVICES		37.2	37.3	34.6	-0.1	2.6
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES		146.5	156.7	143.6	-10.2	2.9
SOCIAL SERVICES		82.9	83.7	81.0	-0.8	1.9
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES		62.3	62.0	57.1	0.3	5.2
GOVERNMENT	694.9	684.0	700.9	671.8	-16.9	12.2
FEDERAL	142.0	142.7	144.7	137.6	-2.0	5.1
STATE		145.7	151.4	143.6	-5.7	2.1
LOCAL		395.6	404.8	390.6	-9.2	5.0
---PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	2.7	1.8	1.7	8.5	0.1	-6.7

AP/= Advanced preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/= Preliminary data.

JOBS DECLINE SEASONALLY IN JANUARY

Statistical information regarding Pennsylvania's nonagricultural wage and salary jobs by industry takes on a new appearance this month with the addition of advanced preliminary February data for major industry lines. The addition of this information in the establishment employment table preceding this narrative fulfills our goal of immediate release of the most current available labor market information.

During January, business establishments supplied a total of 4,903,300 jobs throughout Pennsylvania, an increase of 134,400 from the year-ago total. Despite a seasonal downturn of 114,900 from December's record employment, the January figure represents the greatest job total to date for this particular month (January). Payroll cutbacks in retail trade, following the end of the holiday buying period, as well as weather-related construction curtailment, led the over-the-month jobs decline. It is important to note, however, that the December-January job loss is a yearly seasonal occurrence and, in fact, is usually much more pronounced. (Typically, approximately 10,000 more jobs are lost throughout the Commonwealth during this period.)

Jobs within manufacturing totaled 1,047,400 in January, a loss of 4,300 since December but 23,000 above the figure attained during January 1987. Monthly declines were evenly split among durables and nondurables. It is heartening to see yearly pluses in the net jobs gained column for manufacturing, as this is a necessary occurrence for the Commonwealth to continue economic growth.

As previously mentioned, nonmanufacturing industries are especially vulnerable to seasonal job patterns in January. Total jobs among the Commonwealth's nonmanufacturing industries amounted to 3,854,100 in January, down by 110,700 since December. Normally, the December-January job decline is on the order of 114,000 jobs. Key industries playing a major role in this month's job downturn were construction and trade, as previously mentioned. Another sector experiencing significant movement was services, especially educational services, down 10,600 since December. This employment, in all likelihood, will rebound in February as learning institutions move into the final half of the school year.

Over-the-year job comparisons continue to verify that the strength in Pennsylvania's economy emanates from the nonmanufacturing sector. Adding a total of 118,100 jobs since January 1987, this division has experienced strong yearly job growth in nearly all lines. Among these: services (+53,700); retail trade (+27,700); government (+12,200); and contract construction (+9,500).

Early preliminary returns from the Commonwealth's survey of business establishments reveal a February job total of 4,911,700, a gain of approximately 8,400 since January. Manufacturing jobs continued in decline, losing 1,900, all in the durable goods sector. Nonmanufacturing picked up the pace in February, adding an estimated 9,300 jobs to total 3,863,400.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

TABLE 5
PENNSYLVANIA HOURS AND EARNINGS
OF MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

INDUSTRY TITLE	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	JAN. 1988 P\	DEC. 1987	JAN. 1987	JAN. 1988 P\	DEC. 1987	JAN. 1987	JAN. 1988 P\	DEC. 1987	JAN. 1987
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	415.54	426.78	399.91	40.9	41.8	40.6	10.16	10.21	9.85
DURABLE GOODS	454.20	467.38	439.52	41.9	42.8	41.7	10.84	10.92	10.54
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS	348.23	349.16	349.42	40.4	40.6	42.2	8.57	8.60	8.28
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	348.23	362.61	348.25	39.3	41.3	40.4	8.81	8.78	8.62
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODS.	446.27	450.40	429.00	42.3	43.1	42.1	10.55	10.45	10.19
PRIMARY METALS	533.83	562.86	522.46	42.1	43.7	42.1	12.68	12.88	12.41
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	448.59	460.94	437.81	42.2	43.2	42.3	10.63	10.67	10.35
NONELECTRICAL MACHINERY	475.87	491.27	446.96	43.3	44.1	41.5	10.99	11.14	10.77
ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONIC MACH.	422.77	428.16	405.06	41.9	42.1	41.0	10.09	10.17	9.88
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	521.52	525.26	487.06	42.4	42.6	41.0	12.30	12.33	11.88
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PROD.	424.36	424.13	411.88	41.4	41.5	40.7	10.25	10.22	10.12
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES	354.31	402.87	415.07	37.1	40.9	43.6	9.55	9.85	9.52
NONDURABLE GOODS	364.19	374.22	350.64	39.5	40.5	39.2	9.22	9.24	8.95
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	402.57	417.74	382.14	40.5	41.9	39.6	9.94	9.97	9.65
TOBACCO PRODUCTS	240.56	256.01	255.84	39.5	41.9	41.0	6.09	6.11	6.24
TEXTILE PRODUCTS	276.14	279.82	272.53	38.3	39.3	39.1	7.21	7.12	6.97
APPAREL AND RELATED PRODUCTS	217.70	218.88	206.36	35.0	35.5	34.8	6.22	6.16	5.93
PAPER PRODUCTS	488.90	482.13	465.70	43.7	44.6	44.1	10.73	10.81	10.56
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	429.84	444.31	425.30	39.8	40.8	39.6	10.80	10.89	10.74
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	521.08	539.39	496.72	43.1	44.8	42.6	12.09	12.04	11.66
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS	594.02	603.94	588.56	42.4	43.2	42.1	14.01	13.98	13.98
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS	376.06	387.43	369.56	42.1	43.0	41.9	8.98	9.01	8.82
LEATHER PRODUCTS	222.83	226.82	224.24	37.2	38.2	36.7	5.99	5.99	6.11
NONMANUFACTURING									
ANTHRACITE COAL MINING	429.24	432.96	376.83	36.5	36.6	33.9	11.76	11.83	11.11
BIT. COAL & LIGNITE MINING	656.51	654.06	643.97	42.9	41.9	42.2	15.26	15.61	15.26
COMMUNICATIONS	525.60	521.75	543.11	39.4	39.2	40.5	13.34	13.31	13.41
ELECTRICAL, GAS, & SANITARY	659.46	656.41	621.16	43.3	43.1	42.4	15.23	15.23	14.65
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES	182.79	187.47	169.95	26.6	29.9	27.5	6.12	6.27	6.18

P\ = January 1988 data are preliminary.

Production workers throughout Pennsylvania's manufacturing industries averaged $415.54 in their weekly paychecks during January, $11.24 less than their average month-ago earnings. The decline came as the result of a 0.9 hour curtailment in the average workweek to 40.9 hours coupled with a five-cent cutback in the hourly rate to $10.16 in January. Last year at this time, production workers averaged $399.91 per week, worked a 40.6 hour workweek and were paid at the rate of $9.85 per hour.

Among industries, manufacturers of durable goods averaged $454.20 per week in January while working 41.9 hours. Nondurable goods industries took home $364.19 per week, working an average of 39.5 hours. Within durables, primary metals workers took home highest earnings at $533.83 per week for an hourly rate of $12.68 per hour. Highest earnings within nondurables came in petroleum and coal products at $594.02 per week and an hourly rate of $14.01 Lowest earnings were posted among production workers within apparel and related products ($217.70) and leather products ($222.83).

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

CLAIMS AT LOWEST LEVELS IN FIFTEEN YEARS

At 143,595 during the month of January, initial claims filed for unemployment benefits achieved the lowest level for that month since 1973. In addition, total weeks claimed, at 670,367, are lowest for any January since 1970. Last year at this time, initial claims were 162,578, while weeks claimed totaled 817,016. Economic improvement throughout the Pennsylvania labor market is responsible for other positive developments related to unemployment compensation, among those:

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION REGULAR PROGRAM
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	JAN 1987	NET CHANGE FROM DEC 87	NET CHANGE FROM JAN 87
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	143,595	133,414	162,578	10,181	-18,983
Weeks Claimed					
--Total	670,367	573,477	817,016	96,890	-146,649
--Average Weekly	159,611	124,669	185,665	34,942	-26,074
Insured Unemployed Rate	3.5%	2.7%	4.1%	NA	NA
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	66,437	36,789	77,418	31,648	-40,629
Final Payments	7,926	7,915	11,532	11	-3,606
Weeks Paid	564,425	493,739	756,257	70,686	-191,832
Net Benefit Amt	$84,803,799	$72,714,218	$111,463,519	$12,089,581	-$26,659,720
Avg Check Amt	$150.25	$147.27	$147.39	$2.98	$2.86

* Lowest final payment figure for January since 1973.

* Lowest weeks paid total for January since 1970.

* Highest weekly average check amount on record.

* Lowest federal loan balance since December 1976.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND - January 1988 Activity

Income - $27,878,464 **Disbursements - $84,803,971**

Cash Reserves $624,241,253
Federal Loans $587,119,326

Net Reserves $ 37,121,927

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Research and Statistics Division of the Pennsylvania Office of Employment Security, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1972, amended 1977) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by the latest 12 month average covered employment for which data is available.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.

Income - Amount of funds deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including employer and employe contributions, transfers from other sources such as the Special Administration Fund, redeposited unemployment compensation checks, federal benefit program reimbursements, loans, and interest earnings.

Disbursements - Amount of funds disbursed from the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including the payment of state unemployment compensation benefits, federal program benefits, refunds, and voluntary federal loan repayments.

Balance - Amount of funds available in the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund to pay unemployment compensation benefits.

Federal Loans - Balance of unemployment compensation loans owed by Pennsylvania to the federal government.

Net Reserves - Amount of funds available in the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund available to pay unemployment compensation benefits minus the balance of federal loans.